

**MINUTES OF THE  
BUSINESS AND LABOR INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 18, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W025 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Kevin T. VanTassell, Senate Chair  
Rep. Stephen D. Clark, House Chair  
Sen. Gene Davis  
Sen. Karen Mayne  
Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser  
Rep. Jackie Biskupski  
Rep. Carl W. Duckworth  
Rep. James A. Dunnigan  
Rep. Kevin S. Garn  
Rep. Todd E. Kiser  
Rep. Karen W. Morgan  
Rep. Paul A. Neuenschwander  
Rep. Patrick Painter  
Rep. Gordon E. Snow

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Dan R. Eastman  
Sen. John W. Hickman  
Rep. David Clark  
Rep. Ben C. Ferry  
Rep. Mark W. Walker

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Phalin L. Flowers, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair S. Clark called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Kiser moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Mayne absent for the vote.

**2. Report: Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health**

Dr. Kurt Hegmann, Director, Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (Rocky Mountain Center), gave a presentation titled "Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health." He explained the purpose of the Rocky Mountain Center and reported on its activities and accomplishments during the past year.

Mr. Dennis Lloyd, Chair, Rocky Mountain Center Advisory Board, discussed recommendations of the Rocky Mountain Center Advisory Board.

**3. Helmets to Hardhats Program**

Sen. Davis introduced this item and his belief that the Committee should communicate to the governor and others the need to support programs like Helmets to Hardhats.

Mr. Darrell Roberts, Director, Helmets to Hardhats, distributed and discussed the information titled "They Defended America, Now Let Them Help You Build It" and "The Best Talent For the Construction Industry." He explained the purpose of the Helmets to Hardhats program, discussed resources available to veterans, and discussed how veterans can access those resources.

Mr. Dennis McFall, Deputy Director, Utah Department of Veteran's Affairs (Department), explained the Department's support for the Helmets to Hardhats program.

Mr. Steve Hadley, Department of Workforce Services, spoke to the Committee about hirevetsfirst.gov, which is another resource for veterans returning from active-duty in the military.

Mr. Dale Brockbank, United States Department of Labor, explained his role in helping to place veterans in jobs after active-duty service and the funding of hirevetsfirst.gov.

Chair S. Clark turned the chair to Sen. VanTassell.

#### **4. Approved Apprenticeship Programs**

Representative Mel Brown introduced this item. He discussed the construction industry and changing demographics within the industry.

Mr. Jeff Anderson, Apprenticeship Administrator, Operating Engineers Joint Apprenticeship Committee, spoke to the Committee on the importance of apprenticeship training, including safety training. He discussed apprenticeship programs available in the state and also explained the requirements for apprentices to become journeymen in their trade.

Mr. Juan Pelaez-Gary, State Director for Utah, Office of Apprenticeship, United States Department of Labor, distributed and discussed a packet of information regarding the national apprenticeship act and what apprenticeships are.

Mr. Rich Thorn, President, Associated General Contractors, spoke in support of additional apprenticeship programs in the state.

Mr. Chris McFarland, Human Resources, Geneva Rock, spoke to the Committee about apprenticeship programs offered by Geneva Rock. He explained the requirements and the benefits of the program and spoke in support of apprenticeship programs around the state.

Ms. Linda Hull, Utah Department of Transportation (Department), said the Department is supportive of apprenticeship programs and noted the Department's funding of apprenticeship programs.

#### **5. Risk Management**

Rep. Biskupski introduced this issue and her desire to work on this issue and bring it back to the Committee at a future meeting. She also introduced Ms. Elizabeth Garbe, Coverage Initiatives Director, Utah Health Policy Project.

Ms. Garbe distributed and discussed "Reinsurance: A Tool to Manage Risk and Stabilize the Private Market" and "Reinsurance: A Tool to Manage Risk and Stabilize the Private Market: Fact Sheet."

Ms. Judi Hilman, Executive Director, Utah Health Policy Project, discussed the issue and noted that committee support for studying the issue could affect whether the Health System Reform Task Force studies the issue.

#### **6. Other Items / Adjourn**

Chair VanTassell adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.